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MOSCOW, KYIV BLAME EACH OTHER AS UKRAINE DAM PARTIALLY DESTROYED

The Nova Kakhovka dam in Russian-controlled Kherson region in southern Ukraine collapsed on Tuesday, endangering the lives of thousands

EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS UNDERWAY

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the dam, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian military strikes for its collapse. It was not immediately clear whether either side benefits from it since both Russian- and Ukrainian-held territories are at risk of flooding. Russia and Ukraine have both begun emergency evacuations. Neither side has reported any casualties so far | P12

RESERVOIR CRUCIAL FOR COOLING N-PLANT

- The reservoir created by the Soviet-era dam on the Dnieper River holds 18 million cubic metres of water. The dam also provides cooling water to the nuclear power station at Zaporizhzhia, which is under Russian control
- Kyiv says the Dnieper River has been contaminated with 150 tonnes of industrial lubricants after the breach and more oil is likely to be leaked

38,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM BOTH RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN AREAS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAD • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CBI team begins questioning Rly officials at site

ASISH MEHTA AND AMIT MUKHERJEE @ Bhubaneswar/New Delhi

CBI officials interact with RPF personnel near the Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Balasore district | PTI

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday began its probe into the Bahanaga railway accident, one of the deadliest of train crashes in the country that claimed 288 lives and left more than 1,100 passengers injured on June 2.

A team consisting of about eight CBI officers visited the accident site at Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Balasore district. It reportedly questioned a signalman and held discussions with Balasore GRP officers. The CBI officers collected information related to the mishap and shifting of dead bodies. The team spent more than an hour at the site.

Sources pointed out that none of the railway staff on duty on the fateful evening are on the run and all will cooperate with the CBI.

Earlier in the day, the Special Crime unit-I of the premier agency formally booked a case of criminal negligence based on the FIR registered by Government Railway Police (GRP). The GRP had not named any railway employee and said persons responsible for the accident will be identified during the course of investigation.

The IPC charges filed by the CBI in the FIR include causing hurt by an act endangering life (Section 337 IPC), causing grievous hurt through rash or negligent acts endangering human life (Section 338), causing death by negligence (Section 304A), acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention (Section 34), along with relevant sections of the Railways Act for endangering the lives of passengers through willful acts or omission (Section 153), rash or negligent acts (Section 154), and endangering the lives of government servants and the public (Section 175).

Sources said the CBI team will examine all angles including negligence on the part of railway staff, mechanical error as well as conspiracy. It may meet DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal on Wednesday.

This is not for the first time that CBI has been tasked to investigate a rail accident. In 2010, the Centre had ordered a CBI probe into derailment of Jnaneswari Express, which claimed 148 lives. The CBI had filed chargesheets against 23 persons for damaging tracks by removing pandrol clips. This had led to derailment.

WTC Final: India's big Test

INDIA BEGIN THEIR LATEST QUEST TO WIN A GLOBAL CRICKET TITLE SINCE 2013. STANDING BETWEEN THEM AND THE HOLY GRAIL IS AUSTRALIA, FAMILIAR FOES. HERE'S A LOOK AT THE WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL FROM THE OVAL...

INDIA'S MIDDLE-ORDER

The last time India lined up with a 3, 4 and 5 of Pujara, Kohli and Rahane was in January 2022. Since then, Rahane was jettisoned off while the other two have struggled with inconsistency. Now, all three have scored some runs in different formats so there could be cause for some optimism

LYON VS JADEJA

Nathan Lyon has enjoyed a lot of success against India on the surface with bite and turn. Against this team in Australia, he averages well over 30 at a strike rate of over 60. The surface itself may not help spin that much over the first few days but this is a battle that could decide several pivotal moments

India head coach Rahul Dravid (left) during a practice session at The Oval Cricket Stadium on Monday | AP | FULL COVERAGE: P15

LEGACY QUESTION

For a country that prides itself on their red-ball nous, winning this final would bookend their bilateral domination against almost all nations in the last years. It will certainly be the crowning glory in the careers of several players who are in the autumn of their careers

3.00 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORKS

THE OVAL

Spl wing to curb moral policing in M'luru soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

HOME Minister **Dr G Parameshwara** on Tuesday said that an 'Anti-Communal Wing' (ACW) will be set up in Mangaluru city police limits soon to prevent moral policing.

Addressing reporters after holding a review meeting with senior police officers of Western Range, Dr Parameshwara said people in the coastal region are living in fear due to moral policing and communal disturbances. The situation might worsen if tough measures are not taken to prevent them.

Moral policing can be prevented through existing laws. "If it is not checked, it will not only bring a bad name to the police but also to the state. At any cost, we will not allow moral policing," he said.

"The police commissioner will prepare a roadmap and set guidelines for the wing. The aim of the wing is to prevent moral policing and ensure communal harmony. The officers will visit colleges and raise awareness against moral policing. Some of the accused in moral policing cases have been externed from the district. The wing will take such decisions," he said.

To a query, the minister said right now the wing will be set up in Mangaluru as moral policing cases are high here. If required, the wing will be set up in other places too.

Meanwhile, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Sharan Pumpwell tweeted, "Hope this will reduce oppression by Islamic jihadis on Hindu society."

Dark net sale: NCB busts int'l drug syndicate, seize 15,000 blots of LSD

ENS @ New Delhi

THE NCB on Tuesday said it has busted a major drug syndicate operating through the Dark Net and seized 14,961 LSD 'blots' worth about ₹10 crore in the international market. Six persons have been arrested in this connection.

'Blot' is a small piece of paper, half the size of a postal stamp, which makes it hard for authorities to track. It is used by peddlers and addicts for discreetly carrying and consuming the drug. "This operation marks the largest-ever seizure of LSD blots in a single operation within our country. Six individuals in their mid to late twenties have been arrested thus far, and we are actively pursuing another cartel," said Gyaneshwar Singh, deputy director general (northern region), NCB.

According to sources, the six arrested individuals consisted of students and youngsters seeking "easy money" while maintaining anonymity. NCB sources said the seized LSD originated from Poland and the Netherlands and the syndicate trafficked it across various states, accepting payments in cryptocurrency and through UPI. The contraband was shipped using courier and postal networks.

NARI SHAKTI

Col Priyanka Singh assumed command of a frontline Divisional Army Service Corps Battalion in the Northern Command theatre on Tuesday, becoming the first Woman Commanding Officer responsible for providing supplies and transport cover to soldiers

Bypoll to three Council seats on June 30

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced that byelections to three vacant seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council will be held on June 30. The results will be out the same day.

Three members of the BJP resigned as MLCs to contest the recent Assembly elections. The ECI is holding byelections to fill these vacant posts in the 85-member Upper House.

The ECI said that a notification will be issued on June 13. The last date for filing of nomination papers is June 20. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on June 21. June 23 is the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers. Voting will be held from 9 am to 4 pm on June 30. Counting of votes will take place at 5 pm the same day. The election process will be completed by July 4. P4

BSF jawan killed in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

DASHING hopes of an early end to violence in Manipur, militants fatally shot a BSF jawan and injured two Assam Rifles personnel in the wee hours of Tuesday at Serou in Kakching district.

The slain soldier, Ranjit Yadav, was from the BSF's 163rd battalion. He was injured in the gunfight with suspected Kuki insurgents and was evacuated to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

The exchange of fire between the two sides took place in a school in Serou, officials said.

Reports said suspected Kuki miscreants resorted to indiscriminate firing on BSF troops deployed at the Serou Practical High School around 4.15 am.

According to a defence ministry statement, additional troops were rushed to Serou and adjoining Sugnu following multiple incidents of violence, arson and firing in the past 48 hours. "As a result of extensive area domination operations by Assam Rifles, BSF and police, intermittent exchange of fire took place between security forces and the insurgents during the night of 05/06 June. Security forces took adequate measures to prevent insurgents from breaking contact and running away to nearby areas," it said.

Officials believe the insurgents would have suffered some casualties.

Two AK series rifles, one 51mm mortar, two carbines, ammunition and war-like stores were recovered during preliminary search. The forces will continue operations till the entire area is sanitised.

Internet ban extended till June 10

The Manipur government on Tuesday extended its ban on internet services till June 10. The suspension of mobile data services has been extended till 3 pm of June 10, an order issued by Commissioner (Home) H Gyan Prakash said. The ban was imposed on May 3

BELLANDUR LAKE

Detergents, shampoos causing froth: Study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S Bellandur Lake made international headlines for frothing and catching fire in 2015. This even made courts take note of the issue and issue a series of directions to the authorities. All this apart, the lake continues to froth every monsoon.

The issue also forced the state government to take up several measures to control the froth and fire. The National Green Tribunal formed a committee to resolve the issue.

Scientists of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, who have been monitoring the lake for the last four years, said three reasons led to foaming.

In their research report, they stated that a single type of surfactant commonly used in most households as detergents and shampoos played a dominant role in lake foaming.

A team from Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST) in IISc concluded that one of the reasons for foaming is untreated sewage entering the lake. "The pollutants in sewage take approximately 15 days to spread and a part of the organic material gets degraded in the absence of oxygen and settles down as sludge," according to the report. CONTINUED ON: P2

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> Indian Institute of Science report